

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Site:	A.L. Taylor
Break:	2.2
Other:	

DATE: June 18, 1979

SUBJECT: Sampling Procedures of Trenches at "Valley of Drums" Near
Louisville, KentuckyFROM: On-Scene Coordinator *ROS*

TO: FILES

THROUGH: Al J. Smith, Chief
Environmental Emergency Branch

Gene Coker described the pits and trenches located in the "Valley of Drums" near Louisville, Kentucky as being 150 feet long and about 20 feet deep. When these trenches were opened with a backhoe, they immediately filled with liquid waste.

Personnel from EPA's Surveillance and Analysis Division pulled samples from these pits on April 18, 1979. They collected sediment samples from the sides of the pits above the liquid phase. The liquid waste was also sampled. However, samples were not taken from the bottom of these pits or trenches.

A comparison of the PCB concentration found in the sediment samples collected in February 1979 and those in April 1979 are very similar. This is probably because both sets of sediment samples were collected on or near the surface.

You may recall our experience with the waste oil lagoons in Whitehouse, Florida, whereby the PCB concentrations were considerably higher in the sludge and sediment samples than in the liquid phase. Thus, in determining whether or not PCBs were present in the pits at the "Valley" site, samples of the bottom sediment should have been collected and analyzed.

Without adequate depth samples of the pits and analytical data for PCBs, we cannot say with certainty that this compound does not exist in high concentrations at this location.

In summary, additional sampling of the pits and trenches at the "Valley" to include bottom sediment samples is needed. Without this information, feasible alternatives for disposal cannot be addressed.



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Since concentrations of 14 ppm were found on the surface, there must be larger concentrations of PCBs either in the drums or the pits.

R. D. Stonebraker